

fourth grade students at St. Veronica Catholic School. Beyond her responsibility as a teacher, Tess actively serves as a school band leader while simultaneously playing an integral community role in the diocesan accreditation process.

As the teacher for Josiah and Elijah Hawatmeh—nephews of my Chief of Staff, Nicola Hawatmeh—Mrs. Florek has left a lasting impression on the many young lives she has impacted. Her devotion and faithful service exemplify every characteristic that makes for a great educator, and we are all thankful for her passion, drive, and commitment to the field of education.

I join the wider St. Veronica community in thanking Mrs. Florek for going above and beyond for her students at St. Veronica Catholic School. With National Teacher Appreciation still fresh in our minds, it is a profound honor to recognize the great work of Tess Florek and all the passionate men and women who dedicate their lives to educating our youngest generation.

#### TRIBUTE TO LAUREN VERDICH

### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2023*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lauren Verdich, a lifelong Chicagoan, business owner, activist and dear friend. Through Lauren's Catering, a business she started in the mid-1980's, she donated her services to many non-profits in the Chicago LGBTQ community such as the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and the Lesbian Community Cancer Project. Lauren was a co-founder of Open Hand Chicago and what is now known as the LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce Illinois. For Lauren's long-standing advocacy in the LGBTQ community, she was inducted into Chicago's LGBT Hall of Fame in 2015.

Along with Lauren's community activism, Lauren was politically active. As progressives, Lauren and her loving partner of 25 years, Gail Morse, were involved in state and federal campaigns, including mine. In 2006, Gail and Lauren were co-chairs of my 5th Annual Ultimate Women's Power Lunch alongside Michelle Obama. Lauren especially enjoyed an event featuring Congressman John Lewis, a hero to Lauren, and ascribed to John's motto of seeking out "good trouble."

On a very personal note, Lauren cooked delicious meals for my grandchildren, son and daughter-in-law, Fiona, when Fiona was sick with cancer. Lauren's warmth and love came through her cooking. I was touched by her generosity and compassion for me and my family at that difficult time.

For decades, Lauren served her community. Lauren was a "sister in arms" with so many fighting for good causes and those getting into John's "good trouble." Lauren Verdich touched so many of us through her food, activism and hugs; and will be deeply missed. Bob and I send our deepest condolences to her wife, Gail, her children, Jordan (Katy) and Dana, and grandson, Zachery.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR RECOGNIZING "NATIONAL POLICE WEEK"

SPEECH OF

### HON. LAUREL M. LEE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 15, 2023*

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Police Week to recognize and honor the brave men and women in blue across the country. This week is a time to reflect on the sacrifices they make to keep us all safe.

My years serving as a prosecutor and judge allowed me to see and appreciate firsthand the sacrifices our law enforcement officers make to ensure our community's safety, and I cannot thank them enough. They work around the clock to keep our friends and families safe, regardless of the circumstances.

Now as the Representative for Florida's 15th District, I am proud to represent thousands of brave law enforcement officers who display great courage, bravery, patience, and diligence when called to run into danger, all to protect those who are often strangers.

To the law enforcement officers that never returned home, we will never forget their sacrifice.

And to the law enforcement officers of Florida's 15th District—thank you. I thank them for all that they do and their dedication to serving and protecting our community day in and day out. I will always stand with them.

#### HONORING WILLIAM P. CHEWNING

### HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2023*

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, with deep admiration, to recognize an extraordinary member of my southern Arizona community. His legacy continues to inspire all who have had the privilege of knowing him. Today, I pay tribute to William P. Chewning, a man whose commitment to upholding the law and ensuring the safety of our citizens has left an indelible mark on our region.

For countless decades, William P. Chewning selflessly served the people of southern Arizona with dedication and courage. As a respected lawman, he donned the badges of both the Tucson Police Department and the Arizona Department of Highway Patrol, fearlessly patrolling the streets, safeguarding our communities, and upholding the principles of justice. His tireless efforts, often in the face of great adversity, exemplify the very essence of public service, and we owe him an immeasurable debt of gratitude.

I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to his family, for it is through their continued support and understanding that William P. Chewning was able to devote himself to the service of others. Their family's sacrifices and encouragement have undoubtedly played an integral role in his ability to fulfill his duty with dedication and distinction.

I am deeply touched to have received their father's Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Belt Buckle. I am acutely aware of the deep

significance this cherished memento holds for the Chewning family, and I want to express my sincere gratitude for their trust in me as their elected representative. This meaningful gift serves as a testament to the faith they have placed in my ability to serve and represent the interests of our esteemed constituents from Arizona's 6th district.

#### HONORING MR. RICK BUCHER

### HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2023*

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to honor Mr. Rick Bucher and to wish him well upon his retirement from his position as Assistant to the Director for United Steelworkers (USW), District 7. Rick has devoted his life to the hardworking members of USW, and for his tireless dedication, he is to be commended. Mr. Bucher will be retiring on May 31, 2023, after 45 years with USW. Mr. Bucher's lifetime of service will be recognized at a dinner taking place on May 23, 2023, at Blue Chip Hotel and Casino in Michigan City, Indiana.

On May 22, 1978, Rick Bucher began his career with USW Local 6103 in Portage, Indiana, when he was hired into National Steel's Midwest Division. Rick started out as a pipefitter with the title of Mechanical Repair Technician 1 in the Cold Roll and Sheet Finishing Maintenance division. Over time, Mr. Bucher's commitment to his union brothers and sisters and to ensuring their rights in the workplace became apparent as he ventured into union leadership roles. With local 6103, he served two terms as Assistant Griever then two terms as Griever for Zone 1 before serving an additional two terms as Grievance Chairman.

Throughout the years, Rick's leadership qualities and commitment to those with whom he worked and served were undeniable. This led to his appointments to various positions within USW, including International Staff Representative, District 7 Sub 5 Director, and ultimately, Assistant to the Director for USW District 7.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Rick Bucher for his many contributions to USW District 7 and to his fellow union brothers and sisters. Rick is the embodiment of the unwavering dedication and loyalty exemplified by the hardworking members of United Steelworkers. For his lifetime of exceptional service and outstanding leadership, Rick is worthy of the highest praise, and I wish him well upon his retirement.

#### ELIJAH BOSLEY EAGLE SCOUT

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2023*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Elijah Bosley. Elijah is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Elijah has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Elijah has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Elijah held the rank of Tom Beater in the Tribe of Mico-Say and earned both the National Outdoor Achievement and the World Conservation Award. Elijah has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Elijah led the construction and installation of 4 benches in the Harbor Lake neighborhood. The benches will be utilized as resting spots and scenic areas along the trail system in the neighborhood. Additionally, one bench is a bus stop location for school age kids.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Elijah for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2023*

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, through no fault of my own, my flight from Houston, Texas to Washington, D.C. was significantly delayed on May 11, 2023. The voting time for the evening votes on May 11 closed before I could arrive and cast my vote that evening. I would have voted YEA on both Roll Call No. 203 and Roll Call No. 204 had I been present.

#### CONGRATULATING DELGROSSO FOODS

### HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2023*

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate DelGrosso Foods as they celebrate the opening of a new food processing and sauce plant in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

DelGrosso Foods has a long history in our Blair County community and has made a rich impact across central Pennsylvania. As the family-owned business continues to expand, this newest plant will produce white sauce, as well as increase production of private label products for major grocery chains and several pasta sauce and salsa brands.

Further, this facility will create over 50 family-sustaining jobs in our area, making it one of the largest single business expansions ever in Blair County.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and I am thankful that DelGrosso Foods can continue to find success and invest in our local community.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate DelGrosso's on this milestone and wish them every continued success.

HONORING DR. FRANK CHONG

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2023*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with with Congressman Jared Huffman, to recognize the work of Dr. Frank Chong, the president and superintendent of Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC), upon his retirement.

Born in New York City, Dr. Chong received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Welfare and Asian American Studies from the University of California, Berkeley before earning his Master in Public Administration degree from Harvard, and his Doctorate in Educational Administration, Leadership and Technology from Dowling College.

Dr. Chong has been committed to public service throughout his career. As special assistant to California Speaker Willie Brown, he developed legislation on higher education, mental health, small and minority business affairs, and local government issues. He later served in executive positions in multiple California colleges including president of Laney College in Oakland and Mission College in Santa Clara. Before his tenure at SRJC, he was appointed deputy assistant secretary for community colleges at the United States Department of Education. While there, Dr. Chong was responsible for shaping President Obama's community college agenda, working on the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act, and developing policies to support the President's college completion goals.

Dr. Chong has secured several key accomplishments at SRJC since the start of his tenure in 2012. He was a prominent leader of the 2014 campaign for Measure H, the largest voter-approved bond in Sonoma County's history. This \$410 million investment in the college has fueled renovation efforts and the implementation of new technologies in SRJC's STEM education centers, sustainability projects, and athletic facilities. In 2020, he also helped drive the campaign for Measure O, a quarter-cent sales tax that has expanded mental health support for SRJC students and the greater population of Sonoma County. Now, under Dr. Chong's leadership, SRJC is nearing completion of its first on-campus student housing in decades which will have 352 new beds. Moreover, this project will reduce 7,575 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually. Currently, SRJC holds the highest acceptance rate among all California community colleges for transfer students applying to University of California campuses.

Dr. Chong is a champion for diversity at SRJC. He is the first Asian-American and first person of color to serve as president and superintendent of the college. Dr. Chong has spearheaded numerous diversity, equity, inclusion, antiracism, and accessibility initiatives. In addition, he oversaw the creation of the new Ethnic Studies department, of more inclusive hiring practices and of the SRJC Intercultural Center. In February 2019, SRJC was listed as one of the nation's "Top 50 Community Colleges for Hispanics" in The Hispanic Outlook on Education magazine.

Dr. Chong is a valuable resource and mentor to many higher education professionals, alumni, and community members. He serves

on boards including the North Bay Leadership Council, the Santa Rosa Metro Chamber, and the Chief Executive Officers Board of the California Community Colleges. In addition, Dr. Chong supports groups like Sonoma County Resilience Collaborative and the Bay Area Higher Education Leadership Council. Dr. Chong is known for his love of golf, food, and wine, as well as his honest, kind, and gregarious nature. He spends his spare time with his wife Lene Jannes and his 2 daughters Mia and Sophia.

Mr. Speaker, it's clear that Dr. Frank Chong has been an excellent steward of the Santa Rosa Junior College and a dedicated community member of Sonoma County. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LOMBARDO GROUP FOR THEIR COMPLETION OF TOTAL CONTROL TRAINING

### HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2023*

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Total Control Training, as they are the first motorcycle safety curriculum to be approved by the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training.

For nearly 2 decades, Total Control Training has operated out of California's 23rd District to provide our state with comprehensive motorcycle training. Their work has led to an unprecedented reduction in the state's motorcycle fatality rate, which has consistently decreased since the organization's new curriculum was implemented in 2014. As the vendor and program manager for the California Motorcyclist Training Program, Total Control Training has rewritten the book on the culture of safety at the state level. Total Control is the single largest provider of advanced motorcycle training in North America, and their mentorship training is widely used by military, state, civilian, and government programs.

The fantastic services they provide to our community have led to formal recognition from the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Trainings. I hope that Total Control Training will continue to provide safety training to our state's many motorcyclists and be an industry leader not only in our High Desert community, but in communities across the state.

#### RECOGNIZING CITY ENTERPRISE, INC.

### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2023*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations to Ms. Wonderlyn D. Murphy, President of City Enterprise, Inc. in Springfield, Massachusetts, for her recent honor by the Small Business Administration as the 8(a) Graduate of the Year.